

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for playing back a record medium storing at least a sequence of audio information partitioned into a plurality of segments, the method comprising:

reproducing audio information stored in each segment of ~~said audio~~ the audio information sequence; and

reproducing prescribed audio information stored in a particular storage area—~~for informing, the prescribed audio information being configured to inform~~ a user of an end of each segment before the playback of a next segment is started.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said particular storage area is a prescribed area of ~~said record~~ the record medium.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said particular~~ the particular storage area is a prescribed storage area of a playback device which plays back ~~said record~~ the record medium.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said prescribed audio information is audio information of an alarm sound.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said prescribed audio information is blank audio information for silence.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
detecting a switching operation requesting switching ~~of audio~~ of an audio information sequence to be played back; and

reproducing audio information stored in a segment of another audio information sequence corresponding to the segment being played back if the switching operation is received before the playback of the next segment.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for playing back a record medium storing at least a sequence of audio information partitioned into a plurality of segments, the method comprising:

reproducing audio information stored in each segment of ~~said audio~~ the audio information sequence; and

displaying prescribed image information ~~for informing a user of approaching an,~~ the prescribed image information being configured to inform a user of an approaching end of the segment before the playback of a next segment is started.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the display of ~~said prescribed~~ the prescribed image information is started when ~~remaining a remaining~~ remaining playback time of the segment being played back ~~decreased~~ has decreased to a preset time-length.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the display of ~~said prescribed~~ the prescribed image information is cleared when the playback of the next segment is started.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein ~~said prescribed~~ the prescribed image information is image information of a counter which varies depending on the remaining playback time of the segment.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein ~~said prescribed~~ the prescribed image information is lighting/blinking of one or more light emitting modules which varies depending on the remaining playback time of the segment.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:

detecting a switching operation requesting switching of ~~audio~~ an audio information sequence to be played back; and

reproducing audio information stored in a segment of another audio information sequence corresponding to the segment being played back if the switching operation is received before the playback of a next segment.

13. (Currently Amended) A record medium storing at least a sequence of audio information partitioned into a plurality of segments, the record medium comprising:

a particular area storing prescribed audio information to be reproduced ~~for informing the~~ prescribed audio information being configured to inform a user of an end of each segment before the playback of a next segment is started.

14. (Original) The record medium according to claim 13, wherein said prescribed audio information is audio information of alarm sound.

15. (Original) The record medium according to claim 13, wherein said prescribed audio information is blank audio information for silence.

16. (Currently Amended) A playback device for playing back a record medium storing at least a sequence of audio information partitioned into a plurality of segments, the device comprising:

an audio information reproduction module which reproduces audio information stored in each segment of said audio information sequence; and

a prescribed audio information reproduction module which reproduces prescribed audio information stored in a particular storage area ~~for informing a user of an end of each segment before the playback of a next segment is started by said audio information reproduction module,~~

the prescribed audio information being configured to inform a user of the end of each segment before the playback of a next segment by said audio information reproduction module is started .

17. (Original) The playback device according to claim 16, further comprising a storage module having said particular storage area for storing said prescribed audio information.

18. (Currently Amended) The playback device according to claim 16, further comprising:

a switching operation reception module which receives a switching operation requesting switching ~~of audio~~ of an audio information sequence to be played back;

a switching module which switches the audio information sequence to be played back when said switching operation reception module ~~received the~~ receives the switching operation;

a position storage module which stores the position of playback before the switching of the audio information ~~sequence;~~ sequence; and

a control module which determines a segment to be played back based on the position stored in the position storage module and the audio information sequence switched by said switching module.

19. (Original) The playback device according to claim 18, wherein said audio information reproduction module reproduces audio information stored in a segment of another audio information sequence corresponding to the segment being played back if the switching operation is received by said switching operation reception module before the playback of the next segment.

20. (Original) The playback device according to claim 16, wherein said prescribed audio information is audio information of alarm sound.

21. (Original) The playback device according to claim 16, wherein said prescribed audio information is blank audio information for silence.

22. (Currently Amended) A playback device for playing back a record medium storing at least a sequence of audio information partitioned into a plurality of segments, the playback device comprising:

an audio information reproduction module which reproduces audio information stored in each segment of said audio information sequence;

a storage module which stores prescribed image information for informing a user of ~~approaching an~~ an approaching end of each segment;

a display module which displays said prescribed image information;

a control module which controls said display module to display said prescribed image information before the playback of a next segment is started.

23. (Currently Amended) The playback device according to claim 22, wherein said control module controls said display module to start the display of said prescribed image information ~~when~~ when a remaining playback time of the segment being played ~~back back~~ has decreased to a preset time-length.

24. (Original) The playback device according to claim 22, wherein said control module clears the display of said prescribed image information when the playback of the next segment is started.

25. (Original) The playback device according to claim 22, wherein said prescribed image information is image information of a counter which varies depending on the remaining playback time of the segment.

26. (Original) The playback device according to claim 22, further comprising one or more light emitting modules which light/blink based on said prescribed image information.

27. (Original) The playback device according to claim 22, wherein said audio information reproduction module reproduces audio information stored in a segment of another audio information sequence corresponding to the segment being played back if a switching operation requesting switching of audio information sequence to be played back is received before the playback of the next segment.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A Computer program product for instructing a computer, microprocessor unit, etc.~~ computer readable medium that stores a program for instructing a microprocessor to execute a process for playing back a record medium storing at least a sequence of audio information partitioned into a plurality of segments, wherein the playback process comprises ~~the steps of:~~

reproducing audio information stored in each segment ~~of said~~ of the audio information sequence; and

reproducing prescribed audio information stored in a particular storage area for informing a user of an end of each segment before the playback of a next segment is started.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~A Computer program product for instructing a computer, microprocessor unit, etc.~~ computer readable medium that stores a program for instructing a microprocessor to execute a process for playing back a record medium storing at least a sequence of audio information partitioned into a plurality of segments, wherein the playback process comprises ~~the steps of:~~

reproducing audio information stored in each segment of ~~said audio~~ the audio information sequence; and

displaying prescribed image information for informing a user ~~of approaching an end of the segment~~ that an end of the segment is approaching, before the playback of a next segment is started.